

Message Text

SECRET

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14

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W

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R 030524Z NOV 73

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8614

INFO USLO PEKING

S E C R E T HONG KONG 11043

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS:PFOR, CH

SUBJ: PRC PROTEST OVER ENTRY BY U.S. OFFICIAL INTO PROSCRIBED
AREA

REF: PEKING 1306

1. FOLLOWING IS TAYLOR'S REPORT OF THE INCIDENT REFERRED TO IN REFTEL. TAYLOR HAD INFORMED USLO BY PHONE OF THE INCIDENT AND HAD ALSO GIVEN A DETAILED ACCOUNT PERSONALLY TO USLO OFFICER HOROWITZ. CONGEN WAS PREPARING TO SEND THIS REPORT BY WRITTEN COMMUNICATION TO THE DEPARTMENT, WHEN REFTEL WAS RECEIVED.

2. ON THE MORNING OF OCT. 22, OUR LAST DAY IN PEKING, I BIKED OUT TO THE CITY MOAT IN THE SOUTHEAST PART OF THE CITY. STARTING BACK I SAW A SMALL DIRT ROAD PARALLELLING THE NORTHERN BANK OF THE MOAT, AND I DECIDED TO FOLLOW THIS SCENIC ROAD BACK TO CHANG AN STREET.

3. AFTER PROCEEDING UP THE ROAD MAYBE TWO HUNDRED YARDS I ENCOUNTERED A PLA SOLDIER WHO WAS WALKING BY. HE WAS UNARMED AND DID NOT SEEM TO BE A GUARD. HE STOPPED ME AND ASKED WHERE I WAS GOING. I SAID I WANTED TO FOLLOW THE MOAT AROUND TO CHANG AN STREET. ANOTHER PLA SOLDIER JOINED US. THEY SAID I COULD NOT PASS THROUGH AS THIS WAS A MILITARY AREA AND THEY ASKED FOR MY IDENTIFICATION. I HAD ONLY MY HONG KONG CONSULAR CARD AND
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I PRODUCED IT EXPLAINING THAT I WAS TEMPORARILY ON DUTY AT THE

USLO. THE SOLDIERS GLANCED AT THE CARD AND RETURNED IT EXPLAINING THERE WAS A SIGN ABOUT 50 YARDS BACK WHICH FORBID FURTHER PASSAGE DOWN THE ROAD.

4. I APOLOGIZED AND SAID I DID NOT SEE THE SIGN. ON THE WAY BACK I SAW A SMALL HANDWRITTEN SIGN IN CHINESE WHICH GAVE NOTICE AS THEY HAD SAID. THERE WAS NEITHER GATE NOR WALL TO MARK THE BEGINNING OF THE MILITARY AREA, NOR WAS THERE A SINGLE GUARD ABOUT. I CONSIDERED THE INCIDENT A MINOR AND UNEXCEPTIONAL ONE AND PROCEEDED BACK TO THE PLATT'S. I WAS NOT CARRYING A CAMERA AND THE SOLDIERS HAD NOT SEEMED TO TREAT THE MATTER AS A SERIOUS ONE. SO FAR AS I KNOW THEY DID NOT TAKE DOWN MY NAME.

5. THAT EVENING WE DEPARTED FOR CANTON BY TRAIN. ON OCT 24 WE ARRIVED IN CANTON STATION AND PROCEEDED TO THE TRAIN WHICH WAS SCHEDULED TO LEAVE FOR THE BORDER. HOWEVER, WE WERE TOLD WE DID NOT HAVE RESERVED SEATS AND WERE ASKED TO WAIT IN THE PRIVATE WAITING ROOM. WHEN THE TRAIN WAS ABOUT TO LEAVE I WAS INFORMED THAT THERE WAS A MESSAGE "FROM PEKING" ASKING THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES TO DISCUSS A CERTAIN MATTER WITH ME. I SAID THIS WAS STRANGE AND ASKED TO PHONE THE LIAISON OFFICE. THE OFFICIALS AT THE STATION, PROBABLY PERPLEXED AS I, SAID THERE WAS NO PHONE. SHORTLY AFTERWARDS A DELEGATION FROM THE PROVINCIAL FOREIGN AFFAIRS BUREAU ARRIVED, HEADED BY A MR. LIN.

6. LIN ASKED WHEN I HAD LEFT PEKING. THEN HE SAID THAT ON THE MORNING OF THE 22ND I HAD ENTERED A MILITARY AREA IN PEKING. I EXPLAINED THE SITUATION AND SAID IT WAS A SIMPLE MISTAKE. LIN SAID THAT I SHOULD HAVE SEEN THE SIGN. I REPLIED IT WAS EASY NOT TO SEE IT. HE SAID I SHOULD BE MORE CAREFUL. I SAID I WOULD.

7. LIN THEN SAID THAT SINCE WE HAD MISSED THE TRAIN, CHINA TRAVEL SERVICE WOULD BOOK RESERVATIONS FOR THE NEXT DAY AND SEE TO OUR ACCOMMODATIONS IN THE TUNG FANG HOTEL. CTS, HE SAID, WOULD ALSO BE GLAD TO ARRANGE A TOUR OF THE CITY FOR US.

OSBORN

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NNN

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